

## JOHNSON NAMES 3 FOR MISSION

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### WASHINGTON

President Johnson yesterday named Robert W. Komer, a White House foreign policy specialist and a former official in the Central Intelligence Agency, as Presidential special assistant in charge of peaceful reconstruction in Viet Nam.

Mr. Komer, together with White House Press Secretary Bill Moyers and Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus Vance, will leave next Tuesday for an inspection tour of Viet Nam.

"I want him to get an on-the-ground picture of it and come back here and help me see our people get what they need," the President told reporters at a White House press conference yesterday afternoon.

The fact that Mr. Moyers will accompany Mr. Komer and Mr. Vance on the Viet Nam inspection trip gives rise to speculation that he now may be about to change roles once again and become Mr. Johnson's new principle foreign affairs assistant.

The press secretary has been involved in this field with increasing frequency in recent months.

The appointment of Mr. Komer was only

one of several foreign policy matters on which Mr. Johnson commented.

"Although 'we work at it every day,' there is still no indication that the North Vietnamese are in any mood to begin negotiations over Viet Nam," he said.

"As far as the fighting war there is concerned, 'I would say the reports from that front are good,' he said, adding that troop morale is high and U. S. combat performance 'is to be applauded.'"

"He announced that he will address himself to the problems and future of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance in an address this morning before a seminar of senior U. S. diplomats at the State Department.

"The United States is 'very anxious' to have more diplomatic contacts with Communist China," but "she hangs up the phone" everytime overtures are made, he said. Because of this intransigent attitude, the current Congressional hearings on China "won't do much more than satisfy people's yearning for information," he maintained.

Maybe it all could be attributed to the charms of spring, but the President's press conference yesterday was marked by an unusually friendly and informal atmosphere.

### CONFERENCE

Reporters were ushered into his sunlit, oval office without warning after they had gathered in the press secretary's office for their routine 4 p. m. briefing.

There was no live television or radio coverage. No pictures were allowed during the question-and-answer period. There was no long, hastily-read opening statement. Mr. Johnson offered no extended criticism of the press. Nobody was sullen, everybody was smiling, and it was real nice.

Even the President took notice of it. Asked if "we overlooked anything?" he replied: "I would say we all ought to be commended for our good spirits and jolly frame of mind. I appreciate the good humor you are all in. I don't know how to account for it."

Mr. Komer's appointment as special White House assistant in charge of the

Vietnam reconstruction program comes as a surprise.

As McGeorge Bundy's deputy, he assumed temporary command of the National Security Council staff when Mr. Bundy left to become president of the Ford Foundation, and there was speculation that he eventually would receive the title of Special Assistant for National Security Affairs.

That is not to be the case, however. "This will be a new assignment, and a very responsible one," Mr. Johnson said. "I think he will have his hands pretty full."

The appointment indicates that Mr. Johnson may now have decided to take personal command of his ambitious new program of social and economic reform in Viet Nam, in much the same way that he is running the war there.

### COUNTERPART

The President said that Mr. Komer "will be the counterpart in Washington" of William Porter, the U. S. Deputy Ambassador in Saigon, and "will be working very closely" both with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara.

The U. S. objective is to institute social and economic change in Viet Nam even while the war goes on, and the President would like some evidence of progress to show voters this year.

Mr. Komer, 44, was born in Chicago, educated at Harvard, and brought to the White House by Mr. Bundy in 1961 after serving 14 years as a top intelligence estimator in the CIA.

In answering other questions on foreign policy yesterday, Mr. Johnson:

"Declined to assess the troubled political situation in Saigon. 'I think you have about the same information I do,' he told reporters.

"Said he gets 'my greatest source of strength' from reading the letters about 100 U. S. service men in Viet Nam write him each week. 'If I get real depressed when I read how everything has gone bad here, I just ask for the letters from Viet Nam so I can cheer up,' he said.

"Disclosed that U. S. Ambassador to Poland John Gronouski will return to Washington for consultation "in the next few weeks." Mr. Gronouski has contact with the Chinese Communists in his work.